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growing list of local governments across the state facing tough budget times because of tight revenues.

Projected revenues next year are estimated at just under \$32.9 million, a drop-off of around \$400,000 from this year, according to county estimates.

Dean Bott, deputy administrator for finance, pointed to several factors for the reduction, including an expected \$1.5 million drop in various state revenue-sharing funds, fewer grants and flat interest income.

AUG. 25**Drive-by shooting puzzles**

TRAVERSE CITY — No one was injured in a drive-by shooting near Grawn Sunday evening but a mystery remains — who would want to spray gunfire into the home of a quiet, retired couple?

“We don’t have no problems with neighbors, we don’t have no problems with nobody,” said Donald McKaye, a 70-year-old retired auto mechanic who moved here from Union Lake four years ago with his wife of 52 years, Carol McKaye.

One of the three bullets that ripped into the house just before 10:30 p.m. crossed the couple’s living room and lodged in a kitchen wall at

the opposite end of the house, narrowly missing Carol’s head as she sat on a couch.

On Monday morning, Grand Traverse Sheriff’s Department detectives were busy attempting to retrieve two bullets from the walls of the house. A third was found on the floor of the McKayes’ den. Shell casings were found on Vance Road south-east of the house.

AUG. 27**Bees put sting on area**

TRAVERSE CITY — Northwest Michigan bee-seized? That’s the buzz.

But the barrage of winged, stinging beasts really aren’t bees — they’re yellow jackets.

“That’s what’s most active this time of year,” said Duke Elsner, a Michigan State University extension agricultural agent.

And they’re thick as flies, say folks who’ve been stung.

The yellow and black dop-pelgangers have made themselves at home at Potter’s Fine Pastries on 8th Street, where they’ve been known to sample the treats.

“We get nests around our Dumpsters to the point where our garbage men don’t want to pick up or garbage,” Kathy Potter said. “And I get real nervous when they come in the front door with the customers.”

Elsner said there aren’t any more yellow jackets around than usual, but supplies are running low of the soft-bodied insects they like to feed their young.

“They’re having a hard time feeding their young and they take it out on us every once in a while,” he added.

AUG. 28**Interlochen sues Amos**

TRAVERSE CITY — Tori Amos may not have insisted the brown M&Ms be removed from her candy bowl, but squabbling over the terms of her contract prompted Interlochen to cancel her Aug. 19 concert and file suit against the popular singer.

Interlochen Center for the Arts this week sued Amos and her manager, Creative Artists Agency LCC of Beverly Hills, Calif., seeking to recoup a \$40,000 deposit.

The suit describes dead-locked negotiations over the amount to have been spent on catering, the number of “comp” tickets requested by Amos and Amos’ demand that up to three “Awareness Groups” be allowed to set up on the Interlochen campus during her concert.

AUG. 29**L&P looks to rework deal**

TRAVERSE CITY — Two county-owned dams along the Boardman River face an

uncertain future because increased maintenance costs exceed profits from the electricity they generate.

“The Boardman (Dam) is triggering it,” said Glen Dine, Traverse City Light and Power engineer. “And if you got to the point where you didn’t operate the Boardman, you might decide not to operate the Sabin.”

The Boardman and Sabin dams, built around the turn of the century, were reconstructed in 1930.

Grand Traverse County bought both dams in 1969. In 1980, the county entered an operating agreement with the municipal utility company.

The county and utility share profits generated by the dams, but the utility is responsible for all maintenance costs, said county administrator Dennis Aloia.

AUG. 30**Clous aims to build homes**

TRAVERSE CITY — Approval is expected soon for a 93-lot subdivision in Mayfield Township that developer Bill Clous plans to build on a corn field.

Clous applied for permits for the development earlier this month, just as a dispute heated up with state and county officials over property in East Bay Township that Clous said he has cleared

and partially filled in order to create farmland.

Clous maintains he is exempt from certain soil erosion and wetland controls because he is a farmer; some officials say Clous instead exploited the farming exemption to get around restrictive soil erosion and wetland control laws.

Clous’ Mayfield Township plans include 93 home sites on 80 to 90 acres at the southwest corner of Center and Schichtel roads — including around 40 acres of farmland — that would be built over the next five years, said Pete Bruski, deputy drain commissioner.

AUG. 31**Motif a recipe for feud**

GAYLORD — City officials are prodding a KFC restaurant to remodel along the community’s Alpine-themed lines, but the fried chicken franchise’s owner cringes at the thought of Colonel Sanders in lederhosen.

KFC owner Noreene Wojcik accuses city officials of using heavy-handed tactics to mandate Alpine trimmings in the Otsego County resort community.

Gaylord business leaders adopted the use of peaked roofs, white-stucco siding and cedar shingles about 40 years ago to promote business and establish the area as a tourist destination.

AUGUST/SPORTS

AUG. 2**Road-weary cyclists rest**

TRAVERSE CITY — Kelly Sleeper spent two days and nights in Traverse City this week, a brief respite in a lengthy, two-wheeled trek.

Sleeper was among 440 bicyclists who set up camp in Traverse City to rest their road-weary bones during the Shoreline Bicycle Tour for the League of Michigan Bicyclists.

The current tour, a seven-day excursion, started last Saturday at Spring Lake just

south of Muskegon, went 47 miles to Montague Sunday, 60 miles to Ludington Monday, 65 miles to Frankfort Tuesday and then 59 miles to Traverse City.

Friday the tour headed 64 miles to Charlevoix, with the final 56-mile leg to Mackinaw City today.

AUG. 3**Manning claims Harborun**

ELK RAPIDS — Three decades after the first race drew a dozen runners, Traverse City’s Andrew

Manning outlasted a field of nearly 400 to win the 10-kilometer portion of the 30th annual Elk Rapids Harborun on Saturday.

Manning was timed in 33:25, edging Williamsburg’s Ben Hammer by four seconds. Due to a technical glitch, times for the rest of the 10K field were unavailable.

Proceeds from the race are used to provide scholarships to Elk Rapids graduates who have participated in the running sports. Since 1993, the race has contributed more

than \$10,000 in scholarships and support of the Elks’ running programs. This year’s scholarship recipients were Hammer and Cailley Frank-Lehrer.

AUG. 5**Gold for Frankfort’s Ward**

FRANKFORT — Winning is a tradition for Frankfort’s Ryan Ward.

So it is no surprise that the 11-year-old came back from the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics in Detroit with a gold medal.

Ward, who will be a sixth grader in the fall, went 3-0 and won his division in tae kwon do at Ford Field.

An advanced red belt, he opened the tae kwon do competition with a 6-1 victory over a boy from Georgia.

He followed that up with a 2-0 triumph over a competitor from Maine before topping Daniel Reed of Texas 6-2 in the finals.

The gold medal qualifies Ryan for the 2004 Junior Olympics in Cedar Rapids, Iowa next summer.